

# TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2018

Topeka Rescue Mission • 600 N. Kansas Avenue • Topeka, KS 66608-1240

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

## **FACILITIES: 785-354-1744**

Hope Center for Women & Families #8

Men's Shelter #0

Distribution Center x366

Thrift Store 785-235-9094

TRM Boutique on the Blvd 785-478-5744

Children's Palace 785-730-8810

## **PROGRAMS: 785-354-1744**

Dining Services x322

Food Distribution x366

Education & Mentoring x338

Volunteer Services x393

## **COMMUNITY:**

NET Reach 785-783-2535 x106

Operation Street Reach 785-230-8237

## **DONATIONS:**

Monetary: 785-354-1744 x316

Material: 785-357-4285

Food: 785-357-4285

website: [TRMonline.org](http://TRMonline.org)

email: [trm@trmonline.org](mailto:trm@trmonline.org)



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# MEET ANDRE' SMITH





*Andre' Smith (second from left) recently graduated from TRM's CaRE (Career Readiness Education) program.*

# MEET ANDRE' SMITH

***I'm Andre' Smith and I'm 28 years old. I am a veteran and served two years in the United States Air Force. Upon my discharge, I moved back home to my wife and family in Virginia. Then my wife and I moved to Louisiana. We later got divorced while living in Louisiana. I moved to Kansas after my divorce to try something new—my brother was living in the area. Things didn't work out.***

I was struggling with depression and some other problems. When I went to the hospital, they recommended I come to Topeka to check out the Colmery-O'Neill VA hospital and get services that they provide for homeless veterans. I had nowhere else to go and Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries was suggested to me. I checked it out, came right in and registered as a guest. I had only been here for four days, when my Advocate at the time, Chris Penny, suggested

the CaRE (Career Readiness Education) program. Knowing that I was new in town and didn't know much about the area—CaRE was a great option for me.

That first day I was a total unknown to the CaRE staff—they didn't know anything about me. After spending a little time in class, I thought the class was great. It taught me a lot about Topeka, helped me learn about resources that I wasn't aware of and I got to meet some wonderful people

who were also in the class. Mostly, CaRE helped me build a TON of confidence again in myself and my abilities. Through class I made some great friends that will hopefully last me the rest of my life.

One of the objectives in this class is getting your resume out on Indeed.com and other job search websites. When I completed that task, the American Cable and Telephone Company (ACT) sent me an email, after seeing my resume, and asked if I was

*Cont. on page 2*

interested in working with them. I did the interview process and started working with them in May. I've now been working for more than eight months with them. I really like the independence and problem solving challenges I have while working for this company. I'm a guest at TRM Ministries, saving up money and carefully planning for my next steps. I'm excited about what 2018 will bring.

The CaRE Program was one of the greatest programs I've been in. It taught me a lot about who I am as a person and rekindled my confidence. Before enlisting in the Air Force, I was able to score a 98 on the entry test (ASVAB). Because of that score, I became an avionics specialist and was able to get some advanced training. I repaired and tested the navigation, radio and other systems for A-10s, F-15s, and U-2s. Good communications and GPS for those pilots and crew were critical for both their safety and ability to complete their missions. In the past, I could always learn quickly when I applied myself and was interested in something. Depression was making that difficult for me, but I've regained that ability now.

I think the best part about

CaRE, was the boost to my self-confidence. Since my divorce and homeless adventure started, I felt like I couldn't do anything and I just didn't have it in me anymore. I felt like all the things I had done in my past and my past jobs, all those skills weren't going to get me anywhere. I felt mired in my current situation and depression



Linda Kinney, CaRE Instructor, said, "It was a pleasure to have André Smith in the CaRE Program. He took the career readiness education training

seriously, appreciated the opportunity and performed with excellence. He displayed strong leadership and team member skills while in the CaRE Program and was well-respected among the CaRE team and his team members. He successfully graduated from the program June 23, 2017. Andre was the first student in his class to gain full-time, financial sustaining employment with American Cable and Television in Topeka. André is a U.S. Veteran and we thank him for his service to his country and participation in the program!"

was crippling me. I was really struggling. In CaRE they kept pointing out that I had all this experience and encouraged me to use it. When things came up and I was struggling, they were there for me and helped me get through it. They believed in me and helped me to believe in myself. They said, "Keep trying, keep pushing, it'll come. Keep praying, a great job will come." Then ACT sent me an

email asking me to interview.

I didn't know anything about ACT, so I did some research, talked to them and figured out who they were. After I did, I knew it was the perfect job for me. That was a resource that I would have never thought about. It was the CaRE team that suggested Indeed.com. CaRE gave me that confidence to put myself out there and it worked!

Some of the people I've met through CaRE have helped keep me accountable to myself. They'll see me walking in the building and ask how's work going? Or if I'm not at work, they'll say you're not at work today, what's going on? Are you sick? It has made all the difference knowing someone really cares about me, for me and about my future.

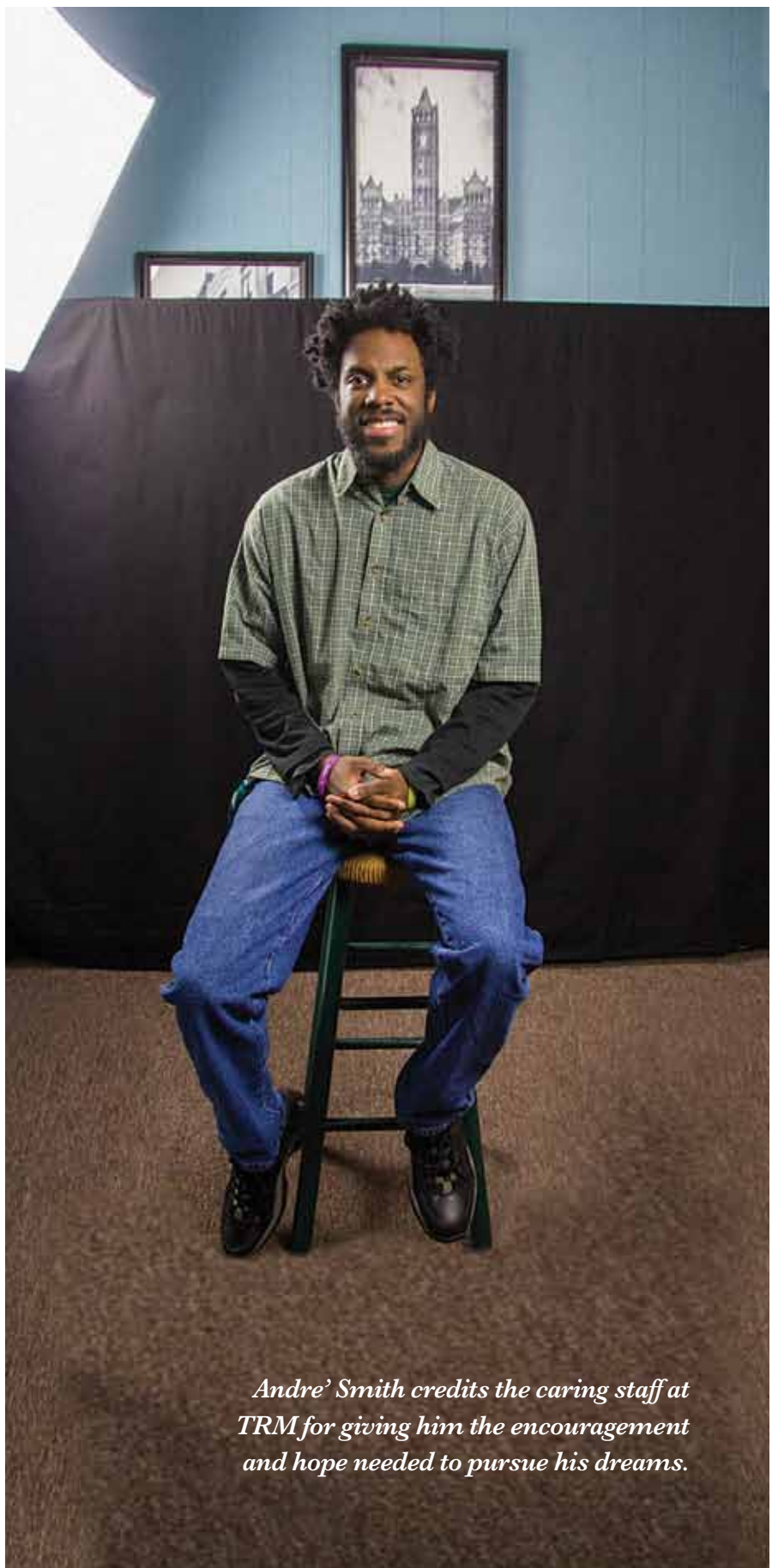
We called our CaRE class the "Great 8." That came from about the time of our graduation when we had eight students left in our class. So we said, "Hey, we're the Great 8, we're going to finish this class together!" One of the girls suggested we get shirts made. She said, "It's good to remember a time that we spent three months of our lives together. Why not get something that kinda keeps us united and motivated as we keep learning



about life and moving forward?”

So yeah, the Great 8. We're all doing different things now. One person in our class was going to start her own business—others had different dream jobs. I've thought about moving back to Virginia to be closer to family. I'm really enjoying this job and making it on my own two feet is important to me. Everything was spiraling down for me when I came here. Now, I KNOW, wherever I go, I'll do well. I'm grateful to the CaRE team and TRM Ministries. It has made all the difference in my life that people here really care. †

**Editor's note:** *Not only does CaRE focus on commonly recognized job search tools and self improvement, such as soft skills, a polished and updated resume, interview skills, dressing for success, cover and thank you letter writing, good nutrition, and general etiquette. But also, The CaRE program teaches the Biblical fundamentals of a person's identity in Christ, the value of work, Jesus in the marketplace, and doing everything we do for the glory of God. One goal of the program is that every member of CaRE clearly hears the gospel and may, for the first time in his life, KNOW that Jesus loves him when he graduates from CaRE. We pray that graduates will KNOW that they are on assignment for Jesus, wherever they go and in whatever careers they find themselves working.*



*Andre' Smith credits the caring staff at TRM for giving him the encouragement and hope needed to pursue his dreams.*



## STREET REACH UPDATE

Thank you for your support. With your generous donations, God is building his kingdom and helping folks get back on their feet. People are working their way back into stable, independent living, securing better jobs and becoming productive, tax-paying community members. As many of you know, temperatures recently have been as low as -35 degrees with wind chills.

With this cold snap over the last few weeks, the Street Reach teams have been actively out ministering to people and helping people check into the Mission as guests. Hand warmers, hot coffee, hot instant oatmeal, warm socks, gloves and hats, sack lunches and other meals, sleeping bags, thermals, hygiene kits and many other supplies have been distributed to cold, hungry people. Multiple teams have been out with increased geographic coverage of the city and more total hours of street ministry on evenings and weekends. We are growing and expanding the Street Reach team with additional volunteer leaders

who have a heart for this ministry.

We were honored to recently begin working with City Life Ministries, a new ministry in Topeka that is primarily focusing on unsheltered homeless people in Historic Northeast Topeka. They have done a house-to-house survey and discovered many people living in extreme poverty—some don't have heat, electricity, sewer or water hooked up to their homes and live on very small fixed incomes or no income. We are also preparing for the annual Point-in-Time count of homeless people that the city of Topeka coordinates locally. While none of the Point-in-Time effort benefits TRM Ministries directly, many resources flow into Topeka and Kansas for people we serve as a result of the large number of homeless people living here. It is important to get an accurate count of our homeless neighbors.

Above are some pictures of a homeless camp that we have been outreaching for several years. Twice recently he has been to the ER for treatment on toes

and feet that were frostbitten. We recently had a chance to work with a city cleanup crew from the prison work team to clean up trash all around his camp. He wasn't displaced and his shelter wasn't damaged. Together, we were able to give him a whole new view and start. We'll keep encouraging this gentleman and doing everything we can to surround him with services.

As we wrap up this issue of the newsletter, I just heard we had 144 male guests stay in the shelter last night—I believe that may be a new record high. I just checked the temperature with wind chill and it is -10 degrees right now. Again, we can't do this without your support. Thank you for your prayers for the homeless and hungry and the teams ministering to them, donations of items, monetary donations and volunteer hours. We'll keep you updated with more information on the growing Street Reach team and how God is working through them. We hope and pray 2018 is off to a great start for you. †



# CURRENT NEEDS LIST



## FOOD ITEMS:

Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Coffee

Sack lunch items (ie. granola bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, snack crackers)

## SUPPLY ITEMS:

Dish Soap / All Purpose Cleaner / Cold & Flu meds / Cough drops

## CLOTHING:

Winter Clothing & shoes for Men, Women & Children / Linens & blankets all sizes

## FURNITURE *(in good condition):*

**Furniture** – i.e. Couches, Recliners, Loveseats, Dressers, Tables, Mattresses and Box Springs, etc.

**Large Appliances** – i.e. Washers, Dryers, Ranges, Freezers, Refrigerators & Microwaves



# SHOP TO SUPPORT:



3400 SW TOPEKA BLVD.  
MON-SAT 10 to 5

**TRM**  
**MINISTRIES**  
**THRIFT STORE**

1312 N KANSAS AVE.  
TUES-SAT 10 to 5

WHERE EVERY \$1 YOU SPEND CREATES 7 MEALS AT THE TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION

**\*\*FIND US ON FACEBOOK\*\***